

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, August 2, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Cambridge, Sunday, (About Aug. 2, 1876?) My dear Alec:

Of course no letter of yours could reach me today, I knew that perfectly, yet I was silly enough to be very much disappointed when the mail came and went without even a postal from you. I am so glad one more day of the week that separate us has gone to join its countless millions of sisters in the past, for the time of your absence seems such a long and dreary one. I long so much to have you back again. I hope though, you are having a nice time with your friends and do not want you to hurry away on my account. Please don't tell them very much about me because you love me so much that you think me much nicer than I am, and when they come to know me they will be disappointed, which would be very sad.

Have you begun your letter to your Scottish friends or prepared your plan for the Legislature. Send them on to me to me to copy as soon as they are ready so as to lose no time. I am in rather a hurry to be trying to do something to help you. Mamma and I have had a long talk this afternoon about you and our plans and of my aristocratic Boston relations. Please speak more respectfully of Gardiner Greene they are all very proud of him because he was the richest, stingiest and meanest man in Boston! About you, Mamma says you are a man of brilliant talents that must make yours a useful life full of use to those around you and the world at large, procuring you fame and money if you work steadily and concentrate all your thoughts and energies on the thing in hand, but your mind is so fertile it is always drawn off by every new idea that comes up; you like to fly around like the butterfly sipping honey more or less from a flower here or another flower there. 2 But this is not the way to accomplish anything, you will never do anything of

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any value that way. She thinks it well you have to support a wife, if I came to you rich you might think you had nothing to do but please yourself flying about. Having to support me will give you an object, and will help to give you that stability and perseverance that you lack. In one thing she was very strongly in favor of Woman's Rights. She thinks wives often do not get their rights. It is their right to be not only the wife but the friend and companion of their husbands. Men often think, well, they will not trouble them with their business worries, they let them think all is going right, for instance, when every body else knows all is wrong. And the wife lives expensively and people wonder and disapprove. This is very unkind and is robbing the wife of her just

(part of letter missing)

have been vastly improved if I had copied them out. But you told me not to and the blame rests with you. If you want me to I'll copy them. Please excuse the looks of yesterday's epistle, my pen behaves better now.

With love to your father and mother and ever so much for yourself.

Your loving, Mabel.

P.S. I want very much to prove an exception to your young ladies by not putting in a postscript, but cannot resist telling you that Berta advises my signing myself Yours Sincerely, M.G.H. I rather think it would freeze you all up or bring you straight home to inquire 3 the wherefore in which case I am tempted to do it.

I am obliged to add another P.S. to say that "Mamma" sends her love to her son, Berta sends her love to her "brother Alec," Willie sends his to his cousin Alec."